(c) whether any settlement has been reached so far; if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) As gathered from the Indian Tobacco Association/Exporters, no specific claim has been received.

Standing Committee Recommendations in Regard to Tobacco

1902. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Standing Committee attached to Commerce Ministry, in their 1st report recommended certain measures in regard to tobacco ; and

(b) if so, details thereof and what action has been taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Committee and the Action taken/position thereon are given below :—

Recommendation	Action taken/position
(i) A levy of 1% may be imposed on the sale of cigarettes and the amount thus accumulated may be utilised as Market Stabilisation Fund for Tobacco.	The proposal is being examined by the Government.
(ii) The export potential of tobacco to other countries like Morocco, Tunisia etc. may be explored.	These are relatively small markets with potential ranging from 500 to 1500 tons. However, constant efforts are made to push up our exports to these countries.
(iii) Export of tobacco having low unit value realisation should be restricted.	India has been exporting low quality jury and top leaf tobaccos to some countries including Russia. Since tobacco is in short supply in Russia and some of the cigarette factories are preferring these low cost tobaccos, the Indian exporters are meeting the demand of these tobaccos. Export of this variety of tobacco is unlikely to affect our exports of standard black soil tobacco to Russia.
(iv) During early 80s large quantity of tobacco was exported to China. There are claims and counter-claims between the Chinese and our exporters over it. These need to be resolved to resume our trade with China.	As per information available with the Tobacco Board the Chinese importers raised claims against Indian exporters of tabacco in 9 cases during 1982-83 and in 4 cases during 1986-87. All these claims were settled between the importers and exporters amicably except in one case relating to M/s. Gogineni Tobaccos. In that case, though the importer and exporter reportedly agreed for the settlement of the claim by supply of 610 tonnes of tobbacco initially towards full settlement, later the issue became a dispute as the importer was reported to have gone back on the agreement and demanded cash payment instead of supply of tobacco. As the exporter was not agreeable to this, the issue is in

Recommendation	Action taken/position
	Today, China is the largest producer of tobacco in the world. In the recent years China has emerged as a major exporter of tobacco in the world and is competing with India in the international market. It is reported that China requires small quantities of Indian tobacco for blending purposes. Hence India at present is exporting tobacco to China ranging from 400 to 600 tons annually.

Expending Aquaculture in rice growing Areas of A.P.

1903. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether MPEDA has been making efforts to expand aquaculture in rice growing areas in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether MPEDA has made any environmental impact study of its move to encourage conversion of rice lands to aquaculture ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of National Marine Fishries Development Board

1904. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a "National Marine Fisheries Development Board" for the overall development of the fisheries sector in the country ;

(b) if so, by when indicating the number of 100 percent E.O.Us which have so far been set up in the fish processing sector/ the number of proposals cleared for the last two years indicating the total investment involved ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government earned foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 1,767 crores during 1992-93 in this sector, if so, what are the estimated earnings during the current financial year 1994-95 as compared to 1993-94 in foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir. This Ministery has no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. The total exports of marine products during 1992-93 was Rs. 1,767 crores. During 1994-95 the estimated target is Rs. 2,720 crores. During 1993-94 the anticipated figure is Rs. 2,227 crores.

Removing export blockages of the Industry

1905. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have taken any decision with regard to the problems of the industry by removing some of the major export blockages in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor ;

(c) whether Government would make improvements in the duty exemption schemes ;

(d) whether the issue of licences on a repeat basis has been removed by Government ; and